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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 6 January 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 52/211, adopted on 19 December 1997 under agenda items 20 (c) and 43, and to forward herewith a letter dated 6 January 1998 addressed to you by Dr. A. Abdullah, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20 (c) and 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. A. G. Ravan FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 6 January 1998 from the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring the following to your immediate attention.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, strictly adherent to a policy of restraint and understanding, has always stood firm behind a non-military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan, as required by the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Accordingly, the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the United Islamic and National Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (UINFSA) have recently taken a series of confidence-building measures. These have included, inter alia, the announcement of the readiness of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to enter into serious and sincere negotiations with the Taliban, the unilateral release of a significant number of the Taliban prisoners of war and the announcement of a unilateral observance of a ceasefire by the armed forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan during the holy month of Ramadan, all of which have contrarily been responded to with further intransigence and hostile actions by the Taliban militia.

Preceding the latest massive retreat towards the west, the Taliban mercenaries, upon re-entering the province of Fâryâb in northeastern Afghanistan on 1 and 2 January 1998, have continued indiscriminate massacres of the unarmed local inhabitants in the villages of Hazâr Qala, Châr-shanbe, Kôhi, Shôr and the administrative centre of Qaisâr district, totalling more than 600, resulting in a coerced exodus, in bone-chilling cold winter, of as many as 20,000 civilians, mostly women and children, now sheltered in the Almâr district of Fâryâb and the provincial capital of Maimana.

Eyewitness reports from the province further unveil brutal mass burials of civilian populations of the areas where the Taliban occupying mercenary forces have for weeks now been trying to crush a popular resistance movement.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, while vigorously condemning this barbaric act of genocide, earnestly expects you:

(a) To assign promptly a fact-finding mission to investigate and report on the matter to the United Nations;

(b) To call upon the Taliban to turn those responsible in to the United Nations;

(c) To appeal to the international community for urgent humanitarian assistance to the victims and their families.

(Signed) Dr. A. ABDULLÂH
Vice-Minister for
Foreign Affairs